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Featuring: Tennessee & U.S. Hog Inventory Cotton Ginnings Prices Received Broiler Hatchery Dairy Product Prices Weather Crop Summary

Tennessee Hog Inventory Down 12 Percent

Tennessee inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2005, was 190,000 head, down 12 percent from the record low a year ago. The December 1, 2005, inventory breakdown and comparison to 2004 are as follows: **breeding hogs**, 20,000 head, down 13 percent; **market hogs**, 170,000 head, down 11 percent; market pigs under 60 pounds, 60,000, down 17 percent; market pigs 60 to 119 pounds, 40,000, down 11 percent; market pigs 120 to 179 pounds, 35,000, down 8 percent; market pigs 180 pounds and over, 35,000, down 5 percent. The **sows farrowed** from December 2004 to November 2005 was 40,000 head, down 7 percent from the previous period. Tennessee's annual litter rate was 8.58 pigs per litter, up 4 percent from last year and a new record. **Pig crop** was down 13,000 to 343,000 head.

U.S. Hog Inventory Up Slightly

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2005 was 61.2 million head. This was up slightly from December 1, 2004, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2005. **Breeding inventory**, at 6.01 million head, was up 1 percent from last year and last quarter. **Market hog inventory**, at 55.2 million head, was up slightly from last year but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The September-November 2005 U.S. pig crop, at 26.1 million head, was up 1 percent from 2004 and up 2 percent from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.89 million head, unchanged from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.03 for the September-November 2005 period, compared to 8.96 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.88 million sows farrow during the December 2005-February 2006 quarter, up 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in both 2005 and 2004. Intended farrowings for March-May 2006, at 2.89 million sows, are up slightly from 2005 and up 1 percent from 2004.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 38 percent from last year.

Hogs and Pigs: Number on Farms, Tennessee, December 1, 1996-2005

Year	Total Inventory	Breeding	Market	Under 60 lbs.	60 to 119 lbs.	120 to 179 lbs.	180+ lbs.
			1,000 Head				
1996	400	51	349	129	85	71	64
1997	340	45	295	115	75	60	45
1998	300	40	260	120	55	40	45
1999	250	30	220	70	60	40	50
2000	230	35	195	70	50	40	35
2001	225	30	195	78	43	40	34
2002	225	30	195	75	42	42	36
2003	215	25	190	77	43	36	34
2004	215	23	192	72	45	38	37
2005	190	20	170	60	40	35	35

Sows Farrowing and Pig Crop, Tennessee, Dec. - Nov. 1996-2005[1]

Year	Sows Farrowing	% Prev. Year	Pigs Per Litter	% Prev. Year	Pig Crop	% Prev. Year
	1,000 Head	Percent	Number	Percent	1,000 Head	Percent
1996	97	83	7.88	100	764	83
1997	73	75	8.16	104	596	78
1998	80	110	8.18	100	654	110
1999	54	68	8.07	99	436	67
2000	67	124	8.28	103	555	127
2001	53	79	8.36	101	443	80
2002	51	96	8.33	100	425	96
2003	51	100	8.41	101	429	101
2004	43	84	8.28	98	356	83
2005	40	93	8.58	104	343	96

[1] December previous year.

Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned (Excluding Linters) Prior to December 15, Crop Years 2002-2005

	Running Bales Ginned			
	2002	2003	2004	2005
All Cotton				
AL	510,350	728,150	723,300	754,950
AZ	471,750	368,600	440,050	386,200
AR	1,596,450	1,720,800	1,946,600	2,073,600
CA	1,627,800	1,452,900	1,798,750	1.289,400
FL	60,500	113,700	86,900	102,950
GA	1,318,750	1,773,350	1,603,950	1,760,050
KS [1]		28,300	9,800	56,050
LA	746,850	1,028,300	881,600	1,105,650
MS	1,840,000	2,038,650	2,227,400	2,090,150
MO	564,950	655,800	782,950	861,100
NM	46,000	48,400	44,100	51,050
NC	711,450	931,950	1,262,850	1,208,100
OK	158,650	159,900	175,600	214,000
SC	105,300	263,750	336,300	324,400
TN	**776,350**	**821,300**	**912,400**	**1,064,650**
TX	3,777,650	3,444,500	3,701,700	4,931,000
VA	79,650	99,650	138,100	138,300
US	14,392,450	15,678,000	17,072,350	18,411,600

[1] Not published to avoid disclosing individual gins, but included in the US totals.

U.S. Prices: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in December, at 114, based on 1990-92=100, increased 1 point (0.9 percent) from November. The Crop Index is up 4 points (3.8 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 2 points (1.7 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for tomatoes, corn, strawberries, and lettuce. Lower prices were received for oranges, broilers, dairy, and grapes. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of dairy, wheat, oranges, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, soybeans, grapes, and corn.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 3 points (2.7 percent) from December 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 120, was unchanged from last month but increased 3 points (2.6 percent) from December 2004.

Prices Received by Farmers: Tennessee & U.S., December 2005 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Tennessee			United States		
		December 2004	November [1] 2005	December [2] 2005	December 2004	November [1] 2005	December [2] 2005
		Dollars Per Unit					
Field Crops							
Corn	bu.	2.33	2.06	2.20	2.04	1.77	1.88
Cotton Lint	lb.	.410	.485	.477[3]	.393	.485	.489[3]
Sorghum	cwt.	2.95	[4]	n/a	2.99	2.82	2.94
Soybeans	bu.	5.61	5.77	6.00	5.45	5.62	5.71
Winter Wheat	bu.	3.40	[4]	n/a	3.34	3.29	3.30
Livestock							
All beef cattle	cwt.	76.60	79.20	79.80	86.80	91.30	92.70
Steers/heifers	cwt.	97.00	104.00	105.00	91.90	97.30	99.10
Cows	cwt.	46.00	42.00	42.00	48.60	46.00	46.60
Calves	cwt.	110.00	116.00	117.00	122.00	133.00	135.00

[1] Entire month. [2] Mid-month. [3] Based on purchases first half of month. [4] Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms. n/a = not available.

Broiler-Type Eggs Set in 19 Selected States Up 3 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 215 million eggs in incubators during the week ending December 31, 2005. This was up 3 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

Broiler Chicks Up 1 Percent

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 174 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 31, 2005. Placements were up 1 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from January 2, 2005 through December 31, 2005 were 9.04 billion, up 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) Outlook

December 9, 2005 - Global **wheat production** in 2005/06 is up nearly 5 million tons from last month; consumption rises nearly 2 million; exports and imports increase slightly; and ending stocks increase nearly 4 million. Foreign production rises due primarily to larger crops in Australia, Canada, China, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan. Projected global imports are up fractionally due to larger imports by Pakistan, Brazil, South Africa, and the Philippines. Imports by China are down 0.5 million tons to just 2 million, well below the previous year's imports of 6.75 million. Forecast exports rise for Australia, Canada, and Brazil but fall for Syria.

Global **oilseed production** for 2005/06 is projected at 387.0 million tons, up 1.7 million tons from last month. Foreign oilseed production accounts for most of the change with increases for rapeseed, sunflower seed, and soybeans more than offsetting reductions for cottonseed. Canadian rapeseed production is raised 1.2 million tons to a record 9.7 million tons, based on the latest survey results from Statistics Canada. Canada's soybean crop is also increased this month based on the survey. Ukraine sunflower seed production is increased 0.3 million tons to 4.6 million tons reflecting increased harvested area and yields. Other changes include higher rapeseed production for Australia and reduced cottonseed production for India.

The world 2005/06 **cotton** forecasts include modest increases in all categories. Beginning stocks are raised for India and Pakistan, due to prior year adjustments. World production is slightly higher, as increases for the United States, Pakistan, Australia, Syria, and Burkina Faso more than offset reductions for India, Turkey, and others. Consumption is raised mainly in China, based on recent yarn production. World trade is also raised slightly as higher imports by China and Turkey are partially offset by lower imports by Pakistan. World ending stocks are forecast 1.5 percent above last month.

The total U.S. **meat production** forecasts for 2005 and 2006 are little changed from last month. Beef production is forecast fractionally lower in the fourth quarter because of the continued slow pace of cattle slaughter. But the decline in beef output is limited by heavier average carcass weights. In 2006, beef production is raised slightly as marketings pick up in the first quarter. Pork and poultry meat production forecasts are unchanged in both 2005 and 2006. Forecast cattle prices for the fourth quarter 2005 are increased as supplies of Choice grade cattle remain tight. Prices in the first half of 2006 are also raised as cattle supplies remain relatively tight into 2006. The hog price for 2005 is increased because of recent stronger prices. This strength is expected to continue into next year, resulting in a slightly higher first quarter price. Broiler prices in 2005 and 2006 are reduced as current broiler prices have weakened.

Forecast **milk production** for 2005 and 2006 is slightly lower than last month. Compared with last month's forecast, the herds are reduced marginally, and the milk per cow growth rate is slightly lower. Relatively large supplies of butter are pressuring butter prices and forecast prices are reduced to reflect further pressure through early 2006. Cheese, nonfat dry milk, and whey price forecasts are raised from last month as demand is expected to remain firm. Class IV prices are lowered in 2005 but the Class III price is unchanged. The forecast for both 2006 Class III and Class IV prices are raised from last month. The all milk price for 2005 is forecast lower at $15.10 to $15.20 per cwt, but the 2006 forecast is raised to $13.35 to $14.15 per cwt.

Dairy Products Prices Highlights

Cheddar Cheese prices received for US 40 pound Blocks averaged $1.43 per pound for the week ending December 31. The price per pound increased 1.1 cents from the previous week. The price for US 500 pound Barrels adjusted to 38 percent moisture averaged $1.41 per pound, up 0.6 cent from the previous week. **Butter** prices received for 25 kilogram and 68 pound boxes meeting USDA Grade AA standards averaged $1.32 per pound for the week ending December 31. The U.S. price per pound decreased 0.3 cent from the previous week.

Nonfat Dry Milk prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade or USPH Grade A standards averaged $1.00 per pound for the week ending December 31. The U.S. price per pound increased 3.9 cents from the previous week. **Dry Whey** prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade standards averaged 33.1 cents per pound for the week ending December 31. The U.S. price per pound increased 0.3 cent from the previous week.

Tennessee Weather and
Crop Summary - December 2005

Temperatures across the state were generally below normal during the month of December, except for the last week of the year. Rainfall averages were below normal across the western portions of the state during the month, while the middle, eastern portions experience above normal precipitation during the first, third weeks. In areas where little to no rain fell, producers experienced germination problems in their recently seeded wheat fields. Overall, the 2006 winter wheat crop was rated in fair-to-good condition, with some areas better or worse depending on the amount of rainfall received. No major problems have been reported for the State's livestock and hay supplies appear adequate.

National Agricultural Summary
December 26, 2005 - January 1, 2006

Temperatures averaged well above normal nearly nationwide, with only the Florida peninsula experiencing below-normal temperatures. In the northern Great Plains and adjacent areas of the Corn Belt, temperatures averaging 12 degrees F or more above normal caused widespread melting of snow cover, leaving winter wheat exposed to future harsh weather. In the central and southern Great Plains, the winter wheat crop continued to suffer from lack of rainfall. Dry weather also prevailed in the Southwest and Mississippi Delta. Heavy rain and snowfall in the Pacific Northwest and northern Rocky Mountains boosted soil moisture and protective snow, but caused local flooding in coastal areas. Late in the week, a winter storm system brought snow to the Great Lakes, Ohio Valley and Northeast, while rainfall along the middle and southern Atlantic Coast improved soil moisture.

In California, harvest of oranges, lemons, tangerines, and pummelos was active, while some winter wheat was beginning to head. Warm, dry conditions prevailed in Arizona, where the cotton harvest reached 97 percent complete, slightly behind normal. Harvest of Florida's vegetable and citrus crops slowed over the holiday weekend but otherwise progressed well under cool, dry conditions. In North Carolina, rainfall limited field work to just 2.5 days, and soybean harvest advanced slightly, to 96 percent complete.